MARVEL®

75¢ US
95¢ CAN
261
DEC
UK 50p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

ONLY ONE MAN CAN FIND THE MISSING DAREDEVIL...

...AND ONLY ONE MAN CAN STAND THE HEAT IN HELL'S KITCHEN--

THE FABULOUS HUMAN TORCH™

HALF FLESH, HALF FLAME.

THERE IS A MOMENT, BETWEEN MY **SELF** AND THE **FLAME**--A BURNING, ETERNAL, SICKENING MOMENT--WHEN, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE...

...I FEEL LIKE THIS IS IT. THIS IS THE TIME WHEN MY HEAD WILL **TRULY** BE CONSUMED BY BURNING SEARING EXCRUCIATING FLAME.

IT'S IN THAT SPLIT-SECOND JUST **AFTER** I CALL UP MY POWER, JUST **BEFORE** I AM ENGULFED... IT'S A SPLIT-SECOND OF PANIC, OF FEAR.

EVEN WHEN DOUSED, I **BURN.**

I ALWAYS FEEL AS IF ON FIRE.

I AM THE BURNING MAN. I AM THE ETERNAL FLAME.

I AM THE **HUMAN TORCH!**

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

MELTDOWN!

by

ANN NOCENTI	JOHN ROMITA JR	AL WILLIAMSON	JOE ROSEN	GREG WRIGHT	RALPH MACCHIO	TOM DeFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAREDEVIL® Vol.1, No. 261, December 1988 issue. (I.S.S.N. 0279-8271) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Milton Schiffman, Vice President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION : 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL and DAREDEVIL (including all prominent characters featured in the issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 8TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY, 10016.

BUT... BUT...

BUT DOESN'T YOUR SHIRT BURN?

WON'T YOUR *NOSE* MELT OFF?

HOWS COME YOU AIN'T *BALD?*

JOHNNY STORM'S TOO *COOL* FOR THAT!

SEE, LOOK CLOSER!

OOOO

OOOO

OOOOO

HEY, S'HOT!

BUGGA BUGGA!

ONE SECOND A FREAK, THE NEXT...

SEE? JUST A REGULAR GUY.

NICE TRICK, HOTHEAD.

THANKS, HILDA.

HEY, WANNA LIGHT?

SURE.

FOOOOSH!

ULP!

UH... THANKS.

LISTEN TO THAT CLOWN.

THE WORLD'S BURNING AND EVERY-ONE PLAYS THEIR FIDDLES.

BUT... BUT...

WHERE DOES THE FIRE *COME* FROM? OUT OF *YOU?*

HE *MAKES* IT, IN HIS STOMACH!

YOU STUPID...

HEY, DOESN'T IT GIVE YOU A HEADACHE?

HUH. MIDDLE OF A *HEATWAVE*, AN' THIS GUY MAKES LIKE A *FURNACE.*

COULD YOU ALL JUST *STOP* IT!

I'VE HAD *ENOUGH!* HOW CAN YOU *JOKE* LIKE THIS?!

DAREDEVIL IS *GONE* THE STREET SAYS HE'S *DEAD* THE LAW CLINIC IS IN *CHAOS* MY WHOLE WORLD IS *FALLING APART--*

HOW CAN YOU LAUGH?

HOW CAN ANYONE LAUGH?

WE SHOULD GET *OUT* THERE, AND ... AND...

OH, JOHNNY...

I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL A *DREAD* ...LIKE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END...

ALL MY THOUGHTS, SO OMINOUS, SO DARK, SO MORBID...

HELP ME... HOLD ME...

COME ON, KAREN ...BUCK UP!

WITH DAREDEVIL MISSING, YOU ALL SEEM SO LOST AND AIMLESS...LIKE ON THE EDGE OF PANIC...

I JUST WANTED TO LIFT SPIRITS A LITTLE...

I KNOW, YOU'RE GOOD, JOHNNY, YOU'RE A GODSEND. IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* TO HELP US.

DON'T CRY, KAREN! WE FEEL BAD, TOO...

BUT WE *GOTTA* LAUGH, OR WE'LL CRY!

HERE, WANNA DRY UP YOUR EYES?

THANKS, DARLA. YEAH.

HEY, KAREN--ME AN' EIGHTBALL WAS WONDERIN'...

YEAH, WE WUZ WONDERIN'--

WHERE'S *MATT?*

MATT? HE'S OUT LOOKING FOR DARE-DEVIL, OF COURSE.

I'VE *GOT* TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, OR THEY'LL FIGURE OUT MATT AND DAREDEVIL ARE ONE AND THE SAME!

OKAY. WE NEED A PLAN! JOHNNY STORM HERE SAW DAREDEVIL IN A FIGHT OUT BY THE DOCKS YESTER-DAY.

IT'S OUR ONLY LEAD. MAYBE DAREDEVIL'S STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE!

IF HE IS, WE'LL FIND HIM!

I'M SORRY I BROKE DOWN, KIDS.

I CAN'T SLEEP NIGHTS, THIS HEAT-WAVE IS UNBEARABLE... BUT I'M FINE NOW...

DRUG HOTLINE · FREE LEGAL AI

NEW YORK CITY'S HELL'S KITCHEN.

TEMPERS ARE AS HOT AS THE MERCURY IS HIGH.

THE TAR ROOFTOPS ARE MELTING. YOU COULD FRY YOUR BACON ON THE STREET.

EVERYONE FEELS THE CROOKED TRICKLES OF SWEAT RUNNING DOWN THEIR NECKS, THE BACKS OF THEIR LEGS...

THE SLIGHTEST CLOTHING FEELS LIKE TOO MUCH, AND THE TASTE OF SALT IS IN EVERY MOUTH.

EVEN THE REFRIGERATORS ARE SWEATING...

AND THE SEARING OMNI-POTENT EYE OF THE SUN SHOWS NO SIGN OF BLINK-ING, SHOWS NO MERCY...

HELL'S KITCHEN IS BOILING AND ABOUT TO CATCH FIRE...

BEEP BEEP BEEP

YO! YOU'RE IN AMERICA NOW-- IF YOU CAN'T DRIVE, GET BACK ON THE BOAT!

YEAH? I'LL BUST YOUR FACE!

ALL TRAINS WILL BE DELAYED...

WHY WHY WHY DO THEY MAKE US WEAR SUITS...!?

LEX

MOST PEOPLE MELT IN THE HEAT. BUT FOR OTHERS, THAT'S WHEN THE BEST ACTION BEGINS TO SIZZLE AND FRY...

A FEW WORDS ARE WHISPERED THIS HOT DAY. A FEW WORDS THAT SPARK AND RICOCHET LIKE A HOT POOL SHOT AND RIPPLE THROUGH THE BARS, THE STREET...

"DAREDEVIL IS DEAD!"

"DAREDEVIL IS DEAD!!!"

THE STREETS ARE OPEN TURF NOW, AND EVERY-ONE WHO'S HOT-TO-TROT WANTS A PIECE OF THE ACTION.

DAREDEVIL'S DEAD.

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME. NEW GAME, NEW RULES. YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH MURDER.

THE SUPER-COOL OFFICES OF MR. FISK...

THE UNDAUNTED, UNRELENTING, UNMITIGATED KINGPIN OF CRIME.

WITH DAREDEVIL DEAD, HELL'S KITCHEN IS WIDE OPEN...

I'D LIKE TO INCREASE OUR IMPORT BOATS, LIGHTEN THE PATROLS, INCREASE THE FLOW OF VARIOUS GAME OPERATIONS, PROTECTION SERVICES...

IN OTHER WORDS, WHEREAS WE TENDED TO ALLOW JUST A TRICKLE OF BUSINESS IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD--

--I BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO OPEN THE FLOODGATES. IT WOULD BE QUITE PROFITABLE...

DO YOU AGREE, SIR?

SIR?

YES, YES. DO... ALL THOSE THINGS.

BZZZT!

EXCUSE ME, KINGPIN. BUT *TYPHOID MARY* IS HERE TO SEE YOU...

TELL HER TO *WAIT.*

BOSS SAYS TO WAIT, LADY.

MY. AREN'T WE INDIFFERENT.

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO *TOUCH* ME?

NO!

I'M ON THE JOB, LADY.

I LOVE INDIFFERENCE...

MAKES ME *WILD*...

LADY! THE *KINGPIN* IS RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL!

OOOOH! YOU'RE SO *RIGID*, SO *HARD*, SO *UNYIELDING*...

LIKE *STONE*...

LADY, *PLEASE!* KINGPIN WOULD *KILL* ME...

MMMMMMM, *YOU* KILL ME...

COME *HERE*, THEN!

HAHAHA HAHAH!

YOU BUFFOON, YOU PEA-BRAIN, YOU BIG LUNK OF STUPID COW MEAT--

--YOU COULDN'T RESIST ME IF I WAS THE KISS OF DEATH ITSELF!

HAHAHA HAHA!

HUH? WHAT'S SO FUNNY, WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

NOW YOU'RE *MINE*, COW MEAT!

YOU'RE IN MY POCKET AND YOU'LL DO WHAT I WANT--

--OR I'LL JUST HAVE TO TELL MY LOVER BOY--*YOUR BOSS*--ABOUT WHAT A NICE *TOUCH* YOU HAVE...

SHHHHH! QUIET!

KINGPIN WILL SEE YOU NOW, MISS.

LATER, CHUMP.

AND REMEMBER --*IN MY POCKET!*

HEY, BABY.

COME, LET'S HAVE A KISS.

WOOOOMP!

NOBODY DISOBEYS ME.

YOU WERE HIRED TO BREAK DAREDEVIL'S HEART--

--NOT *KILL* HIM!

I THOUGHT YOU *HATED* THE REDMAN. YOU SHOULD BE *HAPPY* HE'S DEAD.

YET, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU MORE *UPSET*. WHAT WERE YOU, IN *LOVE* WITH THE GUY?

I'LL KILL YOU!

GO AHEAD! I'D *LOVE* IT! SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF ME! BEAT ME, TIE ME UP, THROW ME IN A RIVER! MAKE ME HAPPY!

COME ON, BABY-- *KILL ME*--WHAT A *KICK*, I'D LOVE IT!

PLEASE BABY--MAKE ME *HAPPY*!

HAHAHA HAHAH!

DAREDEVIL WAS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

HE WAS INCREDIBLE!

HE COULD SMELL YOUR SUNTAN OIL SIZZLE FROM THIRTY BLOCKS AWAY!

HE WAS AMAZING!

HE COULD HEAR THE STRAIN OF YOUR HEARTBEAT AS YOU TRIED TO CLIMB THE STAIRS!

HIS RADAR COULD DETECT EVERY MOVEMENT--A FALLEN LEAF, A BIT OF DUST...

HE COULD FOLLOW THE LAZY PATH OF A FLY...

BY THE FLUTTER OF YOUR EYELIDS, HE COULD TELL HOW DEEP YOUR SLEEP WAS, OR WHEN YOU WERE DREAMING, THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOURSELF!

YES, DAREDEVIL WAS INCREDIBLE!

HE WAS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE *OVERDOING* IT WITH THAT BRAND-NEW OUTFIT?

HUH? THESE ARE COOL DUDS!

JOHNNY--LOOK, LEMME COACH YOU A BIT...

DAREDEVIL--HE HAD THIS *VIBE*, THIS *DEMONIC STARE*, A KIND OF, LIKE, CLINT EASTWOOD *COOLNESS!*

LAST EXIT

I MEAN, I SEEN 'IM WALK INTO *NO EXIT* AN' WITH *ONE LOOK* GET *DEAD SILENCE.*

BUTCH IS RIGHT--DAREDEVIL WAS COOL. WITH AN EDGE. A VIOLENT EDGE...

IMPLIED VIOLENCE, HE'D JUST *SUGGEST* IT SOMEHOW, WITH HIS BODY... HE DIDN'T HAVE TO *SAY* ANYTHING...

GOTCHA! NO PROBLEM!

WATCH ME!

HEY! PUT DOWN THOSE DRINKS AN' FOCUS YER EYEBALLS THIS A'WAY.

THE *MAN* IS HERE TO SING TO YOU!

GO ON, GET AN EYEFUL!

Bad!

NOW, TO BUSINESS.

DAREDEVIL IS MISSING, WE GOTTA FIND HIM.

I WANT ANYONE WITH ANY INFORMATION TO STEP FORWARD!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS FATHEAD!

NO TAKERS, HUH? WELL, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GET...

...TOUGH.

H'YUK!

OOOOH. I'M SHAKIN IN MY BOOTS.

:SNORT.:

OUCH BUTCH, THIS IS PAINFUL!

WHAT'S HE DOING? I CAN'T LOOK...

HE'S GRINNING LIKE GOD'S GIFT...

OH, :GROAN:!

NOW LOOK, YOU KNOW I BE BAD.

I'M THE BADDEST THERE IS!

SO YOU BETTER BE EATIN' OUTTA MY HANDS AN *FAST*, OR...WELL LIKE I SAID I'LL HAVE TO GET...

...TOUGH!

GOOD MAN GOOD MAN. YOU READY TO SING?

LISTEN, WHITEBREAD. YOU DONE?

'CAUSE WE'D LIKE TO SLICE UP YOUR WHITEBREAD BUTT AN' KICK YOUR WHITEBREAD BUTT *OUTTA* HERE...

SO'S WE CAN GET BACK TO *SERIOUS* THINGS LIKE GETTIN' DRUNK AN' SHOOTIN' POOL..

YOU DIG, MISTER BAD? YOU READY TO *HURT*?

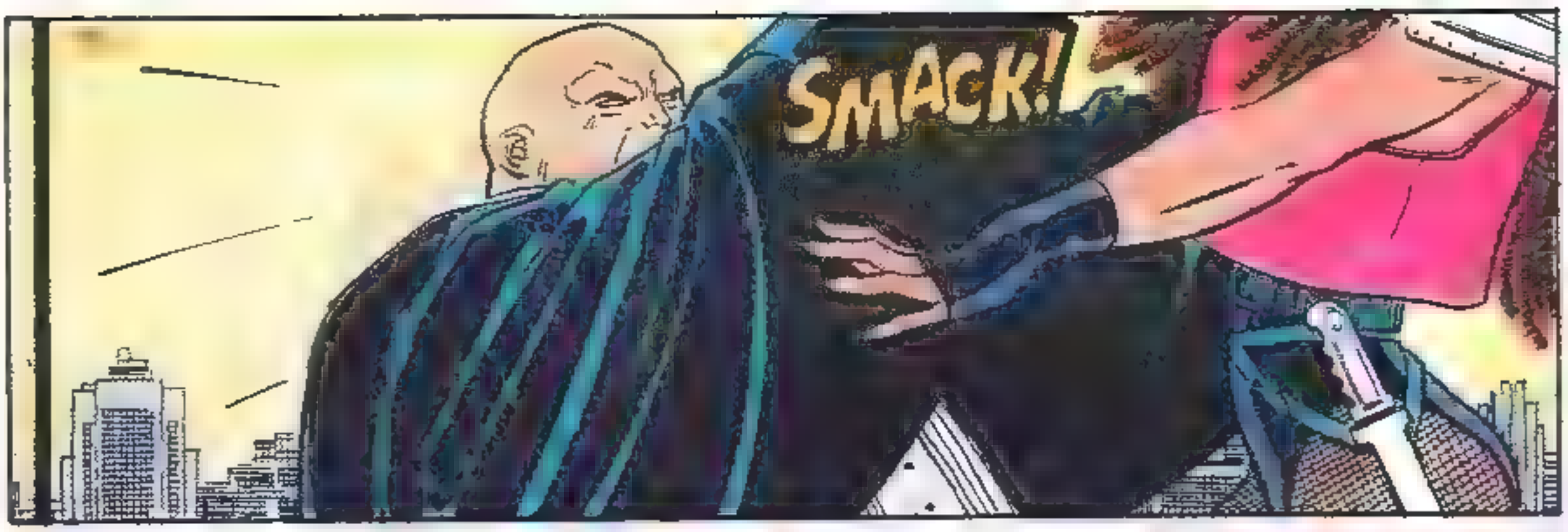
CRACK!

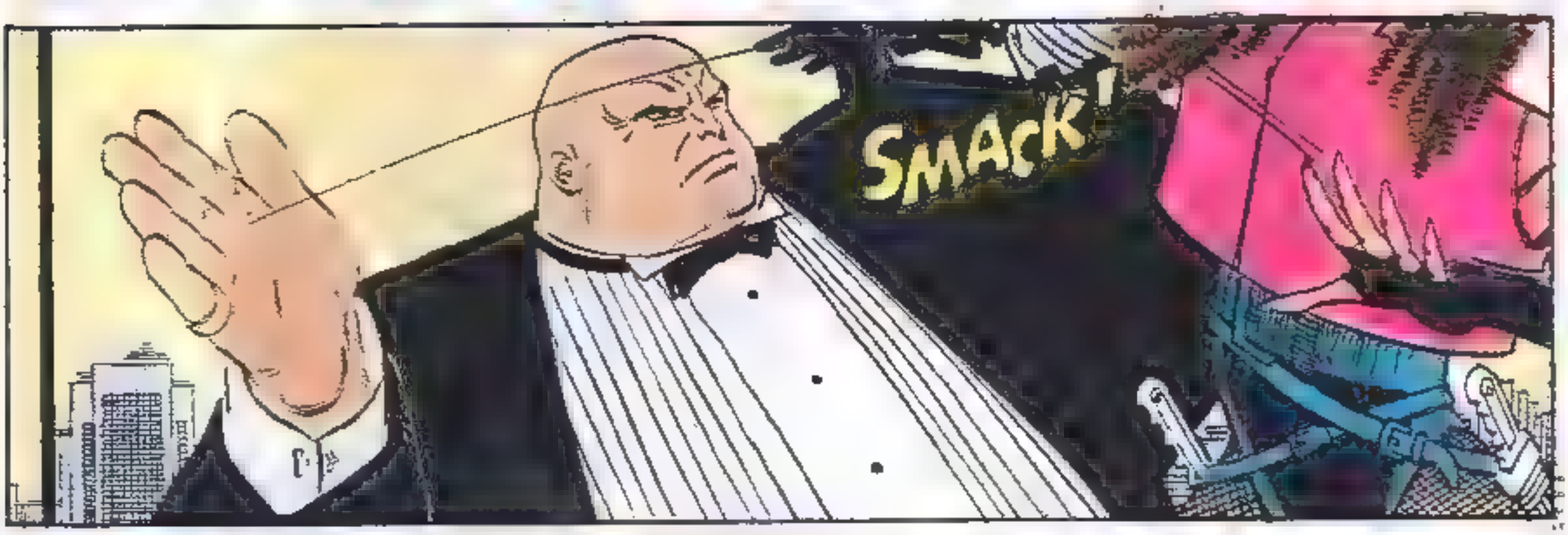
ENOUGH?

NO.

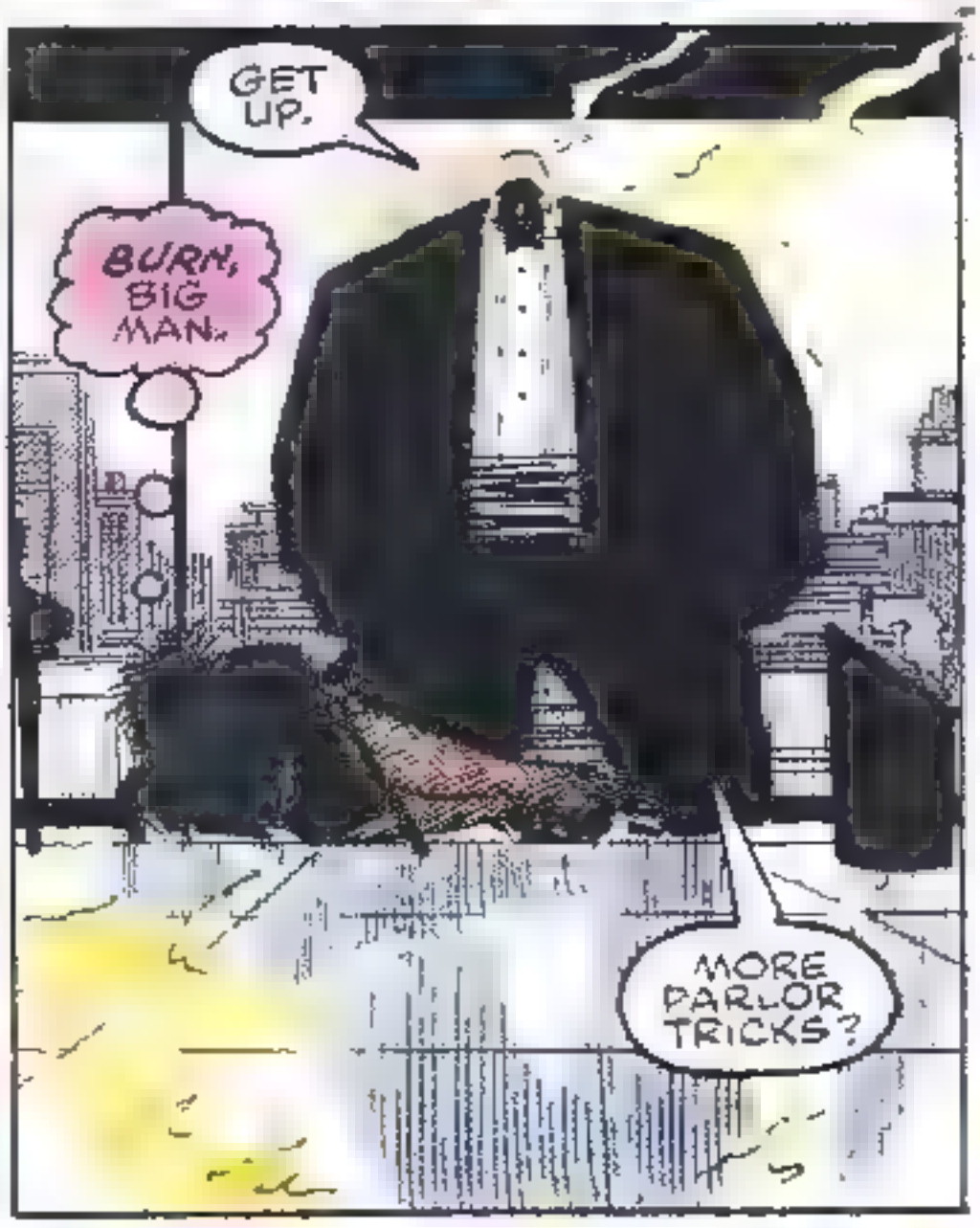
KEEP IT UP, LITTLE GIRL.

KEEP IT UP.


SMACK!


SMACK!

COME ON, LOVERBOY.
KISS ME AGAIN.


GET UP.
BURN, BIG MAN.
MORE PARLOR TRICKS?

I'LL BURN WITH YOU...
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

ARE YOU READY TO BEHAVE?

YES.

HEY! HOTSHOT!

HOLD THE BEEF!

I DON'T WANT MY BAR SMASHED UP!

Real Bad!

LET'S JUST DO IT NICE AND SIMPLE, THEN.

WE'LL ONLY NEED ONE LOUSY BAR RAG TA CLEAN UP THE BLOOD.

WHA?

HYUK SNORT!

HOOOEEE! POINT THAT THING MY WAY, BABY!

SHOOT ME, SHOOT ME!

THIS GUY RE-TARDED, OR WHAT?

Bad!

BANG BANG.

YO!

CHECK IT OUT!

IT'S THE *HUMAN TORCH!* SUM M'UN'?

FREAK

YEAH WHAT'S HE WITHOUT HIS *FLAME?*

A *WIMP.* NOTH'N SPECIAL.

OH, YEAH?

YOU THINK IT'S ALL IN THE FLAME, HUH?

HOW 'BOUT I TAKE ON THE *BIGGEST* GUY IN THE BAR--

--*WITHOUT* US N' MY POWERS.

HOO HOO!

UH-OH!

GOOD TIME COMIN' UP!

SAFE TRIP TO THE HOSPITAL PAL.

YES SIR I KISS YOUR BUTT GOOD-BYE!

ANY LAST WORDS?

WE'LL SEND FLOWERS TO YER MOTHER

WE'LL PUT THE PENNY UNDER YOUR TONGUE!

OH MY...

GOD

IT'S SO *BIG...*

NASTY.

UGLY...

JOHNNY BOY - MEET *BABY ELMO.*

BABY CHEWS *BULLETS* FOR BREAKFAST...

EATS *NAPALM* FOR LUNCH...

WASHES IT ALL DOWN WITH A GALLON OF *ACID RAIN*...

THEN BUTTS HEADS WITH HIS PET *BULL* TO WORK UP ANOTHER APPETITE...

HE SHOULD BE GETTIN' *HUNGRY* RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

KR-KNSSH!

Real Bad!

YOK!

CRACK!

HEH HEH.

K-WAM!

HAHA!

THE *INCREDIBLE* HUMAN TORCH!

LOOK AT HIM *FLY!*

BABY ELMO HE'S MY MAN.

SALUTE--

--ANOTHER CHUMP BITES THE DUST!

OH, MY

OH MY HEART

MY HEART CAN'T *TAKE* THIS

OH, HE'S *BAD!*

HOW BAD IS HE?

REAL BAD!

HE'S *SOOOOO* BAD--

SHUT UP!

GET READY TO *HURT,* BABY!

AARRRRG

GRRRRUMPH!

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

RIBS

RIBS CRACKIN'

QUIT HUGGIN' ME, ELMO-- I AIN'T ONE A' YOUR *GIRL-FRIENDS!*

GUESS YOU'RE USED TO HUGGIN' *COWS.*

AAAAARGH!

AAAAAAA!

WOOMP!

WOOMP!

AAAARRRRR!

I DON T WANNA HURT YOU, SEEIN' AS YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE BABY AN' ALL--

BUT I JUST *GOTTA* TEACH YOU A LESSON!

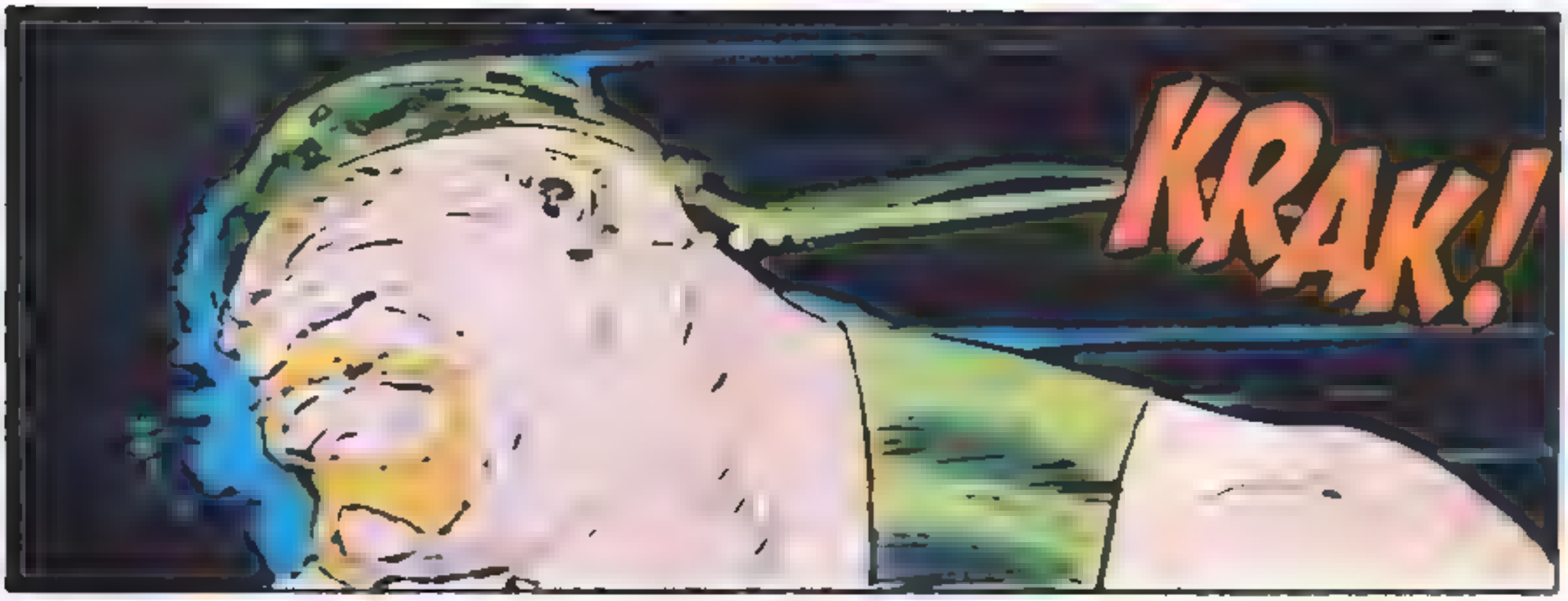
Real bad!

OOOOOOoooOOOoooOOOo

YOK!

KRAK!

YOK!


KRAK!

K-VOK-KRAK!

NOW BACK OFF!

I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY.

I SAID BACK OFF!

HEY, WATCH THAT FLAME!

EVERYBODY RUN!

EXIT

TAKE IT EASY, M'MAN!

MY BAR IS BURNING!

OH MY HEART, MY HEART--MY HEART IS BREAKING!

I'M SORRY, BUDDY THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL RE-BUILD YOUR BAR...PAY FOR MAKIN' IT BRAND-NEW.

I'M SORRY, KAREN. I... I *FAILED*, I LET YOU *DOWN*.

I FEEL LIKE A *JERK*.

YOU KNOW--I'VE FOUGHT *GALACTUS*, I'VE SAVED THE WHOLE BLAMED *UNIVERSE* MANY TIMES--

--YET I CAN'T HANDLE *THIS* WORLD, DAREDEVIL'S WORLD.

I'M JUST A BIG DOPE.

UNSUBTLE, CLUMSY, UNCOOL...

NO, JOHNNY...

TO HANDLE THESE STREETS ...DAREDEVIL, HE MUST BE--

--SOMETHIN' SPECIAL.

YES...

OH, JOHNNY,

EVEN IF HE'S STILL ALIVE... HOW MANY HEARTBEATS CAN HE HAVE LEFT...

...LYING *BROKEN* SOMEWHERE...

I'M SORRY!

KAREN... I'M SO SORRY!

I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK.

HE THINKS HE'S *TAMED* ME, BROKEN THE WILD HORSE.

HE THINKS HE *OWNS* ME NOW.

THEY *ALWAYS* GET THAT LOOK.

I KNOW IT SO WELL.

WHILE THE FIRE BURNS, THEY CAN NEVER SEE TOO CLEARLY.

BUT WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS--

--HE'LL FIND OUT WHO OWNS WHO.

HELL'S KITCHEN HAS NO PROTECTOR, NO GUARDIAN, NO HERO.

THAT IT EVER DID, SEEMS BUT A DREAM.

A CHILD'S WISHFUL FANTASY.

THE CITY IS BURNING, MELTING, LOST.

HOPE IS A LITTLE FOUR LETTER WORD, WRITTEN ON THE WIND.

MARY... THAT'S MY *NAME*, ISN'T IT?

WHY AM I *BRUISED*, CUT UP?

WHO HIT ME?

I THINK... I DO BAD THINGS...

WHY AM I STANDING HERE?

I THINK... I THINK I WANT TO BE *FREE*. I WANT TO...JUMP...

I'VE GOT TO *STOP* HER. *SHE* MAKES ME DO BAD THINGS. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE HER *STOP*.

end

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: editor—ERIC SIRY: assistant editor

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Ralph,

First of all, let me say I love what Typhoid is doing to that fat slob the Kingpin. The same trap he set for Matt Murdock is now being used on him and that arrogant crime-lord doesn't even know it. I wonder what is going to happen when Typhoid makes that fist? Do I sense another downfall for the Kingpin? And if so, what about the other crime bosses? (We haven't seen a lot of any of them since the 'Gang War' in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.)

I cannot believe Matt is actually considering breaking up with Karen for that witch Typhoid 'Mary'. If he knows it will break her heart so, then he must not really want to do it. He must sense something is wrong with Mary. Hopefully he can find his true love is Karen before he really does lose her and winds up broken-hearted, just like the Kingpin wants. See you in 30!

Bill Climer
La Rue, Ohio 43332

Hey Bill, if you think you can't believe it, imagine how Matt feels! Mind control tends to lead to sticky situations like this, so don't try it at home! As for Matt, perhaps it is his fear of hurting Karen that gives him pause—but then again, maybe it's his love for her that's struggling. Only time and the Kingpin know for sure, and they aren't telling!

Dear Ralph,

Typhoid, in issue #254 of Daredevil, was fantastic. The introduction of Typhoid Mary was very well done and it appears well thought out. With the mind control powers and other abilities she has displayed, I hope that you will keep the term 'mutant' out of this title. I don't know if this was done on purpose, but on page 19, the scene with Mary in the blue-and-yellow dress, well, she sure looks like Mary Jane Watson-Parker.

As far as adversaries go it looks like the Kingpin is perfect for Daredevil. Now that the Kingpin is aware of Daredevil's civilian identity, it only makes sense that he would destroy Daredevil through Matt. It looks like you are gearing up for a classic confrontation between Daredevil and the Kingpin and it looks like a lot of people are going to get hurt. Wouldn't it be interesting if Mary actually fell in love with Matt and helped him topple the Kingpin?

The team of Nocenti/Romita Jr./Williamson are producing some of the best Daredevil stories ever and probably one of the highest quality comics on the market. This book is a double bargain considering we are getting such consistent, high-quality work without the price increase. Keep up the quality work on this title.

Charles S. Novinskie
Grand Junction, CO

We'll take your comments under advisement, Charles, and advise you that until further notice, this comic is considered "mutant-free"(tm). And your observations are right—we are gearing up for a big confrontation, but not the kind either you or ol' hornhead expect! We'd tell you what here, but then we'd have nothing to talk about next issue—so to keep everyone happily working, we'd better say what 'nuff did. By the way, Charles, this is further notice.

Dear Marvel,

Just thought I'd drop you a line or three to let you know that you're doing a superb job.

I'm really glad to see Matt trying to teach Tyrone to 'see' the way Stick taught him. I hope it works out. I'm also glad you've decided to bring the Kingpin back into Daredevil's life again (not that he ever actually left). This has been one of the best running conflicts in comics history.

One negative point about #254 though. Wouldn't Matt have known via his 'senses' that Typhoid Mary was lying to him? I find it extremely hard to believe he could let himself slip like that. Of course, in the state of mind he's been in lately, coupled with his worrying over Tyrone, I expect it's possible. After all, we're all human.

M.A. Mullins
(no name and address given)

Typhoid's a *manipulator*, M. She does things that cloud and stupify the senses—even the hyper-senses. DD might fare better, of course, if he had the slightest idea of what was *really* going on, but as it stands, he's holding his own pretty well—for *now*. Besides, we happen to believe that, even as we are all human, Matt's a little more human than most. That's what 'nuff told us.

Dear Marvel,

Just thought I'd drop a quick note to let you all know I'm still reading. I am a DAREDEVIL fan, and have been for years. Being prejudiced toward the original black and yellow uniform, I still consider the initial six issues my all-time favorites. Throughout the years however, DAREDEVIL has reached numerous heights and some occasional lows as will happen with any long running title.

The current storyline introducing Typhoid Mary is showing potential for sharing honored space atop the loftiest plateau. Mary is a unique individual. Mysterious. Sexy. And in her own words, very good at being bad. I look anxiously forward to the remaining chapters chronicling her bout with Daredevil.

Mike Sodin
Chicago, IL

Just a quick note to let you know we appreciate your quick note. 'Nuff has spoken. No, that's still not it. . .

Dear Ralph,

John Romita Jr. has really improved since I last saw his work in X-MEN. His use of line is fantastic! How about changing the corner box? Since John is now the penciler, it should be changed.

Hampus Petterson
Cupertino, CA

Thanks, Hampus—we love John's work on DAREDEVIL as well, and with the right encouragement, talked him into doing a new DD corner box, 25 of issue #256. What do all you out there think?

Dear Marvel,

I have been following your DAREDEVIL for the last 6 months and I am impressed. The characters that Ann has created, especially the villains, are some of the best in Marvel during this past year. Rotgut was realistic and, like the Caviar-killer, non superpowered. It was different to see Daredevil fighting ordinary criminals. I hope we see more of this. The Nameless One and Danny Guitar were interesting due to their background—Frank Miller was heavily influenced by Japanese customs and comics—so it is good to see another area of the world introduced into these pages.

But out of all the villains, from Ammo to Bushwacker, Typhoid Mary in #254 is the best. As the Kingpin said, her personality schism resembles "hornhead's". I know, Ann, that you'll creatively play these two characters off each other. I'm also glad that the Kingpin is finally using his knowledge of Daredevil's secret identity again. I was wondering why he didn't just give it out to T.V. newscasts, but you've captured the heart of the subtlety in the Daredevil/Kingpin relationship which Frank Miller had the Kingpin state in DD #190: "We need each other, Daredevil. We are partners, after a fashion. We are the power in this city." His plan to use Typhoid to get Matt 'right through the heart' is so characteristic of the much-hated Mr. Fisk that you deserve applause.

You write so well that we can understand the Kingpin's jealousy of Matt's happiness with Karen has made the Kingpin like a man possessed. After all, Karen was the wild card that ruined the Kingpin's last plan to ruin Matt Murdock.

Jim Sullivan
Weymouth, MA

Sure Karen ruined the Kingpin's plan to ruin Matt, Jim, but with more than a little help from Mister Murdock himself. As DD said himself, he owed the Kingpin for showing him that "a man without hope is a man without fear." And Daredevil plans to pay him back in full, for a man without fear is. . .well, the star of this book! That's it! That's what 'nuff said! (As the running joke ran into it's grave. . .)

BEAST CHARMING
Perenially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!
HUMBLE CONTRIBUTOR TO #THECOMICRACK
Queries? Requests? Contact me at BeastCharming@yahoo.com
Pledged to scan all series great and small...